

# Light Vote Expected Tuesday for Lukewarm Issues

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## WEATHER

A warm, clear Sunday is predicted today by the Weather Bureau, with yesterday's winds disappearing from the balmy skies. It should be warmer today, however, with a high temperature near 78 degrees.

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# 'Nearly Gave Up,' Rescued Worker Says

## King-Finch Battle Tops Local Interest

A handful of lukewarm contests are expected to lure about one third of Torrance's 18,246 registered voters out to the polls at Tuesday's primary election.

Topping the list locally again will be the resumption of the King-Finch battle for the 17th Congressional nomination, Congressman Cecil R. King, a Democrat, and his Republican opponent, Attorney Robert H. Finch, battled to the wire two years ago.

In the only other local contest, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, a Democrat and minority floor leader of the State Legislature, is opposed by Republican John Wild and Democrat John Rawls, a member of the Assembly for one term 20 years ago.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace, who succeeded the late Raymond V. Darby last year, is unopposed to represent the Fourth District for the unexpired term of two years.

Torrance voters, of course, will have a chance to indicate their thinking in the Tenny-Younger-Younger bid for Republican nomination. A little heralded candidate in this race is Richard Richards, who could win the Democratic ticket.

Also on the ballot is Republican Cornell L. Gabrish, a contractor.

Four active candidates for the second state spot have been campaigning vigorously during the past several weeks. Leading the list is incumbent Harold



ROBERT FINCH

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Evidence Called 'Flimsy' "On very flimsy evidence, I have been asked to put a black mark on the record of a man who has spent 34 years in the service of his government, and I'm not going to do it."

"If this had been a jury trial," he continued, "I would have granted a motion for acquittal long ago."

In disposing of the first two counts, the judge ruled that the evidence in the two-day trial failed to indicate that Captain Kline either ordered or knew that a new set of tires were put on his car, a '47 coupe which he used for official work and as a private car.

Finds Navy at Fault The jurist also found that the Navy damaged a divan and chairs belonging to Capt. Kline while moving them from Norfolk, Va., to San Pedro in 1952, and stated that it was "up to the Navy to repair the damage."

Charges against the former Commandant were contained in a Federal Grand Jury indictment returned last fall. Judge Harrison called the prosecution a "two-bit" case and expressed the opinion that government at-



(Herald Photo)

WHAT BUILDING? ... Questions James Martin, 620 Cota Ave., as he examines an "unsafe to occupy" sign posted by the City Building Department on the charred door of Pacific Waste Products, which "went to blazes" last Sunday afternoon. Martin, a junior at Torrance High School, was on the scene yesterday morning when firemen were called out for a third time to water down the smoldering mass of rags.

## Prosecution Rapped

Rapping possible "animosity" on the part of civilian personnel at the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot against Capt. Arnold R. Kline, Federal Judge Ben Harrison Friday exonerated Capt. Kline of all charges of misuse of government property while in command of the Depot.

Earlier in the day, Judge Harrison threw out of court four of the six original charges against Capt. Kline, who also was in command of the Torrance Annex of the Depot. The judge subsequently cleaned Kline's record of all other

charges. Sharply criticizing the U. S. District Attorney's office for initiating the prosecution, Judge Harrison said: "I have the feeling that back of this prosecution there is evidence of animosity on the part of the civilian personnel at the depot against the captain."

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## Man Buried Alive For Three Hours

By AGNES BOLTER

"I had given myself up," Billy Joe Stultz, 813 W. 229th St., said yesterday afternoon still a bit shaky after being buried alive for more than three hours when the walls of a cesspool he was digging collapsed Friday.

Stultz and Henry Miranda of Rivera were drilling the excavation at the home of Al Bjorkland at Sea Point and Beachcomber Rd. near Portuguese Bend Club, when the mishap occurred about 1:30 p.m.

Stultz had gone down into the 16-foot hole alone to dislodge a rock from the south side of the pit when the wall suddenly collapsed, burying him alive.

Happened Fast "It all happened so fast I was pinned in before I could move," Stultz said. Two boulders weighing several hundred pounds slipped into the pit during the cave-in preventing his release and at the same time preventing further slides from hopelessly covering him.

Miranda leaped into the hole and clawed through the tons of dirt and gravel, clearing an air passage to Stultz enabling him

to breathe. Then he sent one of the carpenters to call the County Fire Dept. "It took about 20 minutes for the firemen to get there," Stultz said, "but it seemed about two hours. Every second I'd ask 'when are they coming,' feeling that I was really a goner."

Fire department workers and volunteers fitted an oxygen mask over Stultz's face and were futilely trying to lift the huge stones when A. W. Drury of Compton, owner of the drilling company, arrived on the scene about 2:30 p.m.

"Then I felt better," Stultz said. "My boss had been through the same thing before, so he knew just what to do."

Drury went into the hole to attach ropes to the rocks, then dig out Stultz. Builders rolled away, and with dirt and gravel only waist-high on the trapped man, firemen attached a chain around his waist, pulling from above while Drury wrapped his arms around his employee's waist, attempting to tug him out of the debris.

Stultz was freed at 4:45 p.m. and taken immediately to Harbor General Hospital, where he was treated for shock and knee and hip bruises.

Printing Bad The 24-year-old man, listed at a mythical 20712 Oakaire St. address by several newspapers in the area yesterday, explained that he didn't give his address because he didn't want his wife, Rahna, to worry. "In my lunch bucket I had my address, 20712 Oak Ave., but the printing must have been bad," he said.

Stultz, his wife, and 4-year-old daughter, Phyllis Ann, moved to their present address last February.

Life doesn't flash instantly before your eyes when you're near death, Stultz said, "but you do think about a lot of things. My sister, Dot, had asked me to go to church with her Sunday and I refused. While I was under all that dirt and gravel I kept thinking maybe if I had gone it wouldn't have happened."

PV Woman Hurt Slightly In Three-Car Collision An elderly Palos Verdes woman was injured slightly Thursday in a three-car collision at Hawthorne Ave. and Pacific Coast Hwy.

Mrs. Pauline Geiger, 60, was treated for cuts and bruises as was Marine Jackson Stewart, 25, one of the drivers. Mrs. Geiger was riding with her husband, Harry Geiger, 62, of 2509 Palos Verdes Dr. North.

The third motorist was Ray Janbt, 40, of South Gate.

Problem Kids On Discussion Slate For TEAC Meet James Blaine, executive director of the All-Nations Boys' Club, will discuss the topic "No Problem Kids, but Kids With Problems," at the June 14 luncheon meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

The topic "What can we do about the high cost of the senior year?" also will be aired. Reservations, at \$1.50 for lunch, can be made by calling the secretary of the Superintendent of Schools, at FA 8-0516.

Council Gets New Hospital Wing Hearing Plans for expansion of the Torrance Memorial Hospital received the approval of the Planning Commission here this week and are being forwarded to the City Council for another public hearing and a final decision.

Members of the Nativity Catholic Church parish, led by Rev. P. J. McGuinness, protested the issuance of a variance to permit additional bed space to be constructed because of the critical parking conditions in the entire area.

Instead of an addition to the hospital, the church suggested that the best solution is to build a new hospital to serve Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Lawndale, and Gardena in a central location in West Torrance.

The City Council will conduct a third hearing on the matter later this month. The hospital plans to add two wings to the front for surgical and maternity beds.



(Herald Photo)

QUICK VISIT ... Governor Goodwin J. Knight stopped off in his headquarters here long enough Thursday to meet King Williams, new Herald publisher, and other civic leaders before touring National Supply Co. and having lunch in the employees' cafeteria. Attorney Donald Armstrong, chairman of the Knight campaign here, was host to the Governor during his visit here.



(Herald Photo)

CAMPAIGNS HERE ... State Controller Robert C. Kirkwood (left) had lunch here with a number of civic leaders Friday while winding up his campaign tour of Southern California. With him here is Attorney Donald Armstrong. Kirkwood is a candidate for re-election Tuesday.

## Frank Awaits Extradition

Red tape of preparing extradition papers for Paul Franks "probably" will be unraveled within the week, enabling Torrance police to bring the robbery suspect, at large for more than a year, here for trial. Sgt. Percy Bennett told the Herald yesterday morning.

Franks, arrested a week ago Tuesday in a Portland, Ore., rooming house, is being held by his FBI captors pending clearance through the District Attorney's office, Bennett said.

The alleged bandit is charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution on charge of implication in the \$30,000 robbery of National Supply Co. Credit Union Funds a year ago last April.

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GOODWIN KNIGHT

Democratic nomination. A new factor is being considered in this year's primary. For the first time in California, the candidate's party will be shown on the ballot. With the California cross-filing system, candidates from all parties appear on each primary ballot if they so choose. Many feel that the new system could introduce a potent factor into primary elections.

Top office at stake in California Tuesday is that now held by Governor Goodwin Knight. Challenging his right to the spot is the former executive secretary of the League of Cal-

ifornia Cities, Richard Graves. Knight has conducted a vigorous handshaking campaign for election to the post he inherited when Earl Warren was named to the Supreme Court. He has traveled thousands of miles and is winding up his campaign this week-end in the Southern California area.

Graves, a Republican until recently, has resigned his well-paid job as head of the League of Cities to campaign on the Democratic ticket.

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VINCENT THOMAS

## VOTERS LISTS TRIPLED DURING PAST SIX YEARS

Like all other phases of community life in Torrance, the registered voters rolls have recorded fantastic growth during the past half dozen years.

A check of past files of the Torrance Herald reveals that only 6823 persons were eligible to vote in the 1948 primary. By 1950, 9036 had qualified, and two years ago 13,801 were eligible.

Deputy City Clerk I. J. Hallanger reported here Friday that 18,246 had qualified for the Tuesday balloting. Of this number, 10,884 are Democrats, 6591 Republicans, and 721 registered for miscellaneous parties or declining to state a preference.

Percentage-wise, the Republican strength is growing in Torrance. Six years ago less than 29 per cent of those registered here were Republican. Republicans now registered represent 36.1 per cent of the total.

Democrats have similarly lost ground during the six-year period. Their party accounted for nearly 63 per cent of the voters here in 1948 but has dropped to 59.6 per cent at the present time.

The percentage of miscellaneous registrations is about one-half that of six years ago. Much of the drop can be attributed to the decline of the Independent Progressive Party. In the four years between the presidential primary of 1948 until 1952, the IPP registration here fell from a total of 221 to 19. Other registrations doubled.